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A Spanish Reader. For Beginners in High Schools and Colleges. By CHARLES ALFRED TURRELL. New York: American Book Co., 1908. Pp. 256. \$0.80.

A Spanish lady remarked, "I object to having my children taught to think that there are no such charming short stories in Spanish as those that they are reading in French. They can draw no other conclusion from the selections in their Spanish book." No such criticism will be provoked by this volume of selections. The humor of the first selections will interest the student and incite him to greater effort in oral repetition which makes for the ready use of a foreign language on the part of the learner. The fables and short stories which follow, and the few longer stories that close the group of prose selections, are wholesome and stimulating as reading and not lacking in the other essentials. As Mr. Turrell says in the Introduction, the last selection, "El Rico y el Pobre," is most rich in local color and idioms distinctively characteristic of the Spanish language. In all there is abundant material for use in conversational exercises and brief written reproductions or summaries. The dozen poems, which form Part II, are excellent for committing to memory.

The extracts are carefully graded in length and difficulty. The young student beginning a foreign language soon tires of a long selection through which he must work his way slowly. The notes at the foot of the page call attention to those things most perplexing to the beginner and make helpful suggestions in matters of idiom and grammatical form. Brief accounts of the authors from whose works the selections are taken are also given.

As the irregular forms of the verbs are given in the vocabulary, the book may be used as supplementary reading very early in the course. The Appendix contains tables of the regular and irregular verbs, and the principal rules for the subjunctive mood in Spanish.

It will thus be seen that the editor has brought together in this small volume of something less than 260 pages, material that can be used to excellent advantage in the first year of Spanish.

In the printing of the text there are a number of places where a letter has been dropped, which may cause a little confusion to the student at first. On p. 10 it would seem that a colon, or quotation marks, would make the sense clearer. But these are matters easily remedied. As a whole this little volume meets in a satisfactory manner the requirements for a first Spanish reader.

Avellaneda's "Baltasar." Edited, with Notes and Vocabulary, by CARLOS BRANSBY. New York: American Book Co., 1908. Pp. 224. \$0.65.

Baltasar is a text that no teacher need hesitate to place in the hands of a class. As the title suggests, the story is based on the biblical account of the downfall of Babylon; the use of material gathered from other sources adds interest and dramatic power.

This edition is not over-edited. The notes at the foot of the pages furnish the biblical, historical, and traditional information necessary to the understanding of the drama. The editorial comments on grammatical and textual difficulties are clear and concise; always they leave something for the student himself to work out. The pages on the versification of the play, which precede the